

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following new paragraphs after line 28 of page 3:

-- The present invention is further directed to a golf ball comprising a core encased in a barrier layer to form a subassembly, which is in turn encased in a cover layer. In one embodiment, the subassembly has a Shore D hardness of less than about 60. In another embodiment, subassembly has a Shore D hardness of greater than about 50. The barrier layer is formed from a composition comprising a filler dispersed in a liquid or solvent-borne polymer of multi-olefin, iso-olefin, or a combination thereof, preferably with a curing agent comprising sulfur, peroxide, or oxide. The filler is preferably selected from a group consisting of leafing aluminum, mica flakes, micaceous iron oxide flakes, aluminum flakes, ceramic flakes, graphite flakes, and mixtures thereof, so that the composition forms a tortuous path against moisture vapor encroachment.

The multi-olefin in the polymer is preferably conjugated, having about 4 to about 14 carbon atoms. The iso-olefin may have about 4 to about 7 carbon atoms. In one embodiment, the polymer comprises about 30% to about 0.2% of the multi-olefin and about 70% to about 99.8% by weight of the iso-olefin. The polymer is preferably amorphous and non-polar, and may be halogenated, sulfonated, or both, or it may comprise branched styrenic blocks. When halogenated, the polymer may comprise at least one of the following: less than about 3% reactive halogen; less than about 1 halogen atom per double bond; a benzylic bromine functionality; or a branched styrenic block. In one embodiment, the polymer is a highly paraffinic hydrocarbon polymer composed on long straight chain molecules containing only chain-end olefinic bonds. The polymer may have a molecular weight of about 5,000 to about 500,000. Optionally, the polymer may be blended with another polymer, such as vinylidene chloride polymers, double-bond vulcanizable rubbers, and ionomers.

Preferably, the composition is a dynamically vulcanizable thermoplastic elastomer blend adhesive to diene rubbers, having a moisture vapor transmission rate of about 0.001 grams·mm/m²·day to about 0.6 grams·mm/m²·day. The composition can be cured by infra red radiation or a combination of infra red and ultra violet radiations. In one embodiment, the elastomeric homopolymer or copolymer is a highly paraffinic hydrocarbon polymer composed on long straight chain molecules containing only chain-end olefinic bonds. In another embodiment, the elastomer is a copolymer or brominated copolymer of p-methylstyrene and isobutylene. --

Please replace the paragraph under the heading "ABSTRACT" with the following amended paragraph:

-- A golf ball with at least one moisture vapor barrier layer is disclosed. The moisture vapor barrier layer is formed from a composition comprising a filler dispersed in a liquid or solvent-borne polymer of multi-olefin, iso-olefin, or a combination thereof. ~~In accordance to one aspect of the invention, the moisture vapor barrier layer may comprise butyl rubber. The butyl rubber may also be a halogenated butyl rubber such as bromobutyl rubber or chlorobutyl rubber. The butyl rubber may also be a sulfonated butyl rubber. The butyl rubber may be blended with other polymers. In accordance to another aspect of the invention, the moisture vapor barrier layer is placed on to a core subassembly and cured by infrared radiation (IR). IR curable moisture vapor barrier materials include, but not limited to, butyl rubber, polysulfide rubber and single pack castable polymers, among others. In accordance to another aspect of the invention, an outer layer of the golf ball may comprise a polymer that has a cured temperature greater than the softening temperature or melting temperature of the encased subassembly. Such outer layer may be cured by IR. The outer layer may be a cover, an intermediate layer or a moisture vapor barrier layer.~~ --